

Home & Garden

Windows THAT WOW



Staff photos by Todd R. McQueen

Georgia Blinds & Interiors Owner Pam Cole peers through custom plantation shutters

Experts: Many issues to consider when choosing treatments, such as privacy, light control, function and decorative style

By Andrea Lynn

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

It's easy to get lost in the options of blinds, shades and curtains when it comes time to decorate windows.

But there also are several considerations to make before choosing which option is right for your home, such as privacy and light-control, followed closely by function and style.

"If you have a golf course view," said Pam Cole of Georgia Blinds & Interiors, "you want to control light but preserve the view, so you'll look at something like plantation shutters."

For those with homes in the country, privacy may not be a driving force in the selection process — but if you have a window overlooking a busy street or sidewalk, privacy is key. According to the About Interior Decorating Web site, good choices to ensure privacy are fabric or roller shades, curtains and draperies, wood blinds and shutters. Although sheer curtains and draperies may offer daytime privacy, the Web site warns that at night most become transparent because of indoor lighting. For those who love sheers but still want privacy, use shades underneath the curtains.

The second option to consider is light control in order to keep glare down in the daytime. Natural blinds like bamboo will filter light, while metal blinds can be tilted to keep direct sun out of a room, according to the site.

Next to contemplate is function. A key decision is whether or not the window treatment should be designed to be stationary. Also important is consideration of how blinds will be operated on high windows. One way to combat this is remote-control blinds.

"So many homes have second-level windows. They have the option of hardwiring it or getting battery-operated ones with a remote similar to a television remote," said Ms. Cole, a resident of Marietta. "I had one lady with 12 windows in her bedroom. She was tired of fooling with them every night."



Ms. Cole displays vertical blinds samples. Style is only one part of picking treatments.

The last thing to consider in selecting window treatments is style. Ms. Cole said draperies added to windows with blinds or shades help imbue a room with personality.

Popular in the Atlanta market right now are bamboo shades and plantation shutters with 3½-inch louvers to let in more light.

"The bamboo shades give you a Ralph Lauren feel with a splash of personality in the home," said Ms. Cole.

All in all, you have the ultimate control over your window's destiny.

"You can spend \$60 or \$350 to cover a window — it depends on how elaborate you want it," Ms. Cole said.

alynn@mdjonline.com